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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/

Media contact: (312) 353-1138 •

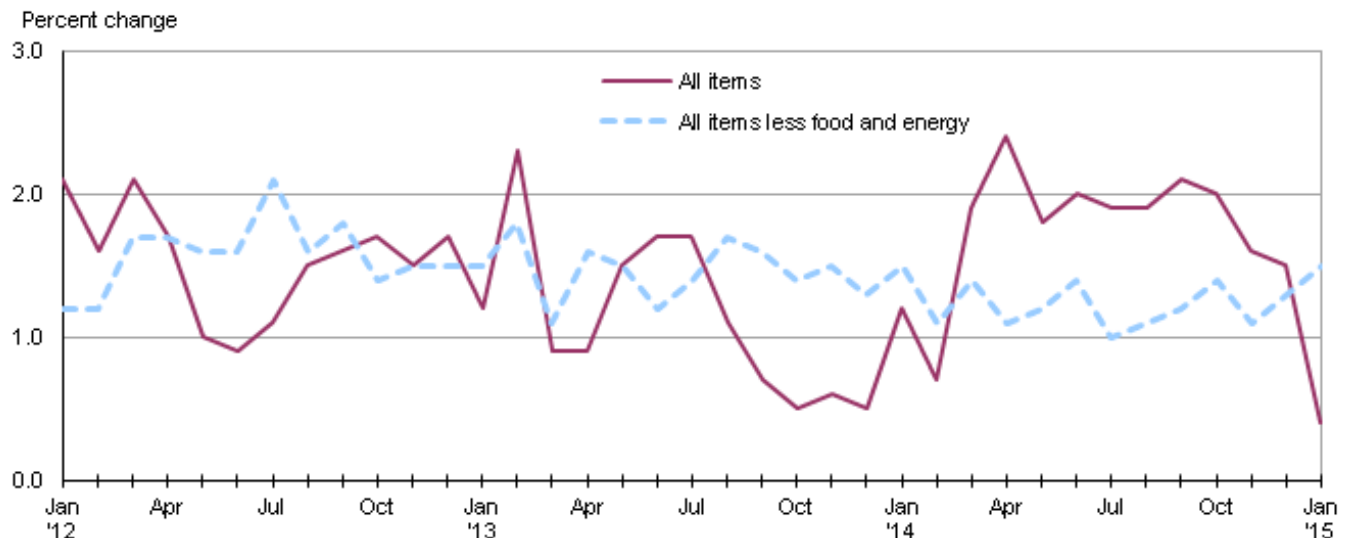
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha - January 2015

Local prices up 0.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area decreased 0.2 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that energy prices fell 9.9 percent while food prices edged up 0.2 percent in January. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.7 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy index, prices rose for recreation, shelter, and medical care. Prices were lower for household furnishing and operation in January. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U increased 0.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The energy index fell 16.7 percent over the year as falling gasoline and utility (piped) gas services prices surpassed increases in the cost of electricity. The all items less food and energy index was 1.5 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago, January 2012–January 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.2 percent in January following a small 0.1 percent decline in December. Of the two components within the food index, prices for food at home (groceries) and for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) rose 0.2 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively over the month.

From January 2014 to January 2015, the food index increased 4.0 percent. Grocery food prices rose 3.3 percent over the year, while prices for food eaten away from home increased 4.9 percent compared to last January.

Energy

The energy index was down 9.9 percent in January due to declines in prices for gasoline (-18.8 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-9.6 percent). In contrast, the electricity index rose 3.0 percent from December to January.

On an annual basis, the Chicago area energy index declined 16.7 percent. Over the year, gasoline and utility (piped) gas service prices fell 38.3 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively, while the index for electricity rose 24.7 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent in January. Among the index's components, prices were higher for recreation (4.2 percent), shelter (0.4 percent), and medical care (1.3 percent). Prices were 1.0 percent lower for household furnishings and operation.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent. Annual increases in the indexes for shelter (2.4 percent), medical care (3.6 percent), and recreation (3.1 percent) were the major contributing factors. Apparel prices were down 4.7 percent over the year.

Table A. Chicago CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January	0.6	1.4	0.6	2.1	0.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4
February.....	0.5	1.8	0.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	0.5	0.7		
March	0.8	2.3	1.2	2.1	-0.1	0.9	1.1	1.9		
April.....	0.4	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.5	2.4		
May	0.6	3.3	-0.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	-0.1	1.8		
June	0.0	3.8	-0.1	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.4	2.0		
July.....	-0.4	3.2	-0.2	1.1	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.9		
August.....	0.2	3.2	0.6	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.9		
September	0.2	3.1	0.3	1.6	-0.2	0.7	0.0	2.1		
October	-0.2	2.9	-0.2	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	2.0		
November	-0.2	2.9	-0.4	1.5	-0.3	0.6	-0.8	1.6		
December	-0.5	2.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	1.5		

The February 2015 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar.

Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.** consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014
Expenditure category						
All items	227.184	226.262	225.852	0.4	-0.6	-0.2
All items (1967=100).....	678.730	675.977	674.753	-	-	-
Food and beverages	240.189	239.696	240.287	3.7	0.0	0.2
Food	239.473	239.290	239.683	4.0	0.1	0.2
Food at home.....	238.386	238.423	238.969	3.3	0.2	0.2
Food away from home	235.579	235.088	235.255	4.9	-0.1	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	249.069	244.012	247.522	-0.3	-0.6	1.4
Housing	229.412	231.194	231.396	2.7	0.9	0.1
Shelter	284.083	283.784	285.014	2.4	0.3	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	301.479	301.381	301.829	3.0	0.1	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	289.805	289.997	290.716	1.7	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	289.805	289.997	290.716	1.7	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	194.224	208.151	205.290	9.5	5.7	-1.4
Household energy.....	163.069	177.344	172.906	10.1	6.0	-2.5
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	166.012	180.839	176.372	10.6	6.2	-2.5
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	150.964	169.046	174.173	24.7	15.4	3.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	171.207	180.138	162.824	-5.2	-4.9	-9.6
Household furnishings and operations	97.436	97.701	96.766	-3.5	-0.7	-1.0
Apparel.....	90.884	89.021	88.807	-4.7	-2.3	-0.2
Transportation	190.087	181.549	173.342	-12.1	-8.8	-4.5
Private transportation	187.081	178.718	169.819	-12.6	-9.2	-5.0
Motor fuel.....	270.133	232.615	188.814	-38.2	-30.1	-18.8
Gasoline (all types)	267.032	229.771	186.485	-38.3	-30.2	-18.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	260.592	223.141	180.349	-39.1	-30.8	-19.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	285.394	250.433	206.098	-35.1	-27.8	-17.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	268.627	236.445	196.316	-33.7	-26.9	-17.0
Medical care.....	455.082	456.459	462.307	3.6	1.6	1.3
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	107.683	108.077	112.665	3.1	4.6	4.2
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	143.298	142.664	142.461	1.9	-0.6	-0.1
Other goods and services	382.445	381.911	383.756	-0.1	0.3	0.5
Commodity and service group						
All items	227.184	226.262	225.852	0.4	-0.6	-0.2
Commodities	170.358	167.390	164.448	-4.4	-3.5	-1.8
Commodities less food & beverages	134.408	130.456	126.071	-10.2	-6.2	-3.4
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	178.573	170.381	161.195	-14.2	-9.7	-5.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014
Durables	92.125	92.185	92.338	-2.9	0.2	0.2
Services	281.023	282.032	284.011	3.2	1.1	0.7
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	217.434	216.409	215.722	0.1	-0.8	-0.3
All items less shelter	208.150	207.004	206.012	-0.6	-1.0	-0.5
Commodities less food	138.639	134.624	130.415	-9.7	-5.9	-3.1
Nondurables	210.408	205.796	201.172	-4.8	-4.4	-2.2
Nondurables less food	183.438	175.366	166.812	-13.2	-9.1	-4.9
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	292.484	294.935	297.793	4.0	1.8	1.0
Services less medical care services	267.713	268.693	270.353	3.1	1.0	0.6
Energy	204.366	198.467	178.729	-16.7	-12.5	-9.9
All items less energy	231.150	230.696	232.128	1.9	0.4	0.6
All items less food and energy	230.454	229.948	231.578	1.5	0.5	0.7

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁴⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.